

A Note on the Occurrence of *Chelisoches morio* (Fabricius) on Pitcairn Island, South East Pacific Ocean (Dermaptera : Labiduridae.)

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Abstract.

An adult ♀ *Chelisoches morio* (Fabricius) is recorded from Pitcairn Island, S.E. Pacific Ocean. This is a new locality for the species and the first earwig record from the island.

Through the courtesy of Dr. G. Archey, Director, and Mr. E. G. Turbott, Ornithologist and Entomologist, Auckland Institute and Museum, this earwig came to the writer's attention. Data supplied with it read: "Found in bath, alive, within abdomen of second. Pitcairn Island. Coll: A. W. Moverley, 26. viii. 1952."

The specimen is an adult ♀ *Chelisoches morio* (Fabricius) with its head firmly held inside the posterior six segments of another earwig, almost certainly of the same species. A summary of the carnivorous habits of the species is given by Hincks (1948). It could easily develop cannibalistic traits and doubtless the one was feeding on the remains of the other.

Both are of a dark reddish-brown colour, but usually this earwig is black. Specimens of a similar light colour are rare in the Burr Collection in the British Museum (Natural History), which was examined through the courtesy of Mr. D. R. Ragge. It would be interesting to find the proportion of light-coloured individuals in the population of the species on Pitcairn Island. The effect of "drift" (Wright, 1940) could offer an explanation if it were found to be high.

This is the first record of a dermapteran from Pitcairn Island; Hincks (1938) gives none. *C. morio* is of world-wide distribution and it is not surprising that it should turn up on the island, although it is isolated and of volcanic origin. Specimens of such a hardy, active insect could be easily transported there on rafts of vegetation carried by ocean currents or among the plants and possessions of early native voyagers. Instances of this species being introduced are given by Burr (1910)—to the East Coast of Africa; by Lucas (1920)—to Kew Gardens, London; and by Hebard (1933)—to the coast of California. In Auckland on 7.iii.1950 the writer took a nymph among bananas shipped from Western Samoa.

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